

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE IDEA
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1996

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the renewal of America's special education law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act [IDEA] Improvement Act of 1996.

This measure is the product of 16 months of work, building consensus to improve this law that has transformed the lives of children with disabilities. For 20 years, children with disabilities have been assured a free, appropriate public education. But as one of my Democrat colleagues said in one of our IDEA hearings, we no longer question whether children should be educated, but how well their education is being done. We see and know that education transforms individuals who were once thought to be helpless into productive, working, tax-paying citizens.

This legislation, which I will summarize, is based upon certain foundational principles.

First, we need to improve IDEA because children with disabilities can and should have a fighting chance to achieve the American dream. We need to make the system work better for children and their families, for teachers and schools, and for the taxpaying citizens who work hard to pay the bill. We want quality education for children, not just a process.

Second, where we recognize that resources are tight, we direct more money to schools to provide services to children. We also reduce paperwork and other administrative burdens, freeing more resources to educate young people.

Third, where we find unnecessary and costly conflict and discord, this legislation renews a focus on education and cooperation.

And fourth, where we have identified confusion in the process of educating children with special needs, we have sought to provide certainty and understanding, based upon consensus and common sense. The area of this law that has probably drawn the most attention is the area of discipline. The IDEA Improvement Act of 1996 contains clear procedures for removing dangerous students from the classroom, with instructions to determine whether the behavior is a manifestation of a student's disability. If a child's wrongdoing has nothing to do with his or her disability, schools should have authority to discipline in a manner consistent with the way they discipline other children. Schools need authority to maintain safe classrooms, and children with disabilities need protections against arbitrary discipline.

Let me say a few words about the process which has brought us to this point, and where we go from here. For 16 months, through three staff drafts, numerous hearings and pub-

lic and private meetings, we have sought to find agreement in the many difficult issues affecting renewal of our Nation's special education law. This bill represents much of that consensus, but not all of it, and certainly not the end of it. And while I believe this is an excellent bill, no individual or organization will wholeheartedly support it all. That is the nature of this process. But the process thus far has given me, and should give all Americans, hope for a successful conclusion.

For the past several weeks, my friend from Michigan, Representative DALE KILDEE and I have been negotiating on many issues in this bill. We have come to many agreements which are reflected in this legislation. There are some issues reminding. Between today and the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth and Families markup, scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, Members and committee and personal staffs from both parties will continue seeking to resolve issues. Some may be completed in time to be included in a chairman's mark. Others will be held for possible bipartisan amendments, in subcommittee or full committee.

In the interest of citizens and Members who wish to review this bill, its text will be available most quickly on the House Opportunities Committee World Wide Web site, which is "http://www.house.gov/eeo/", and soon through the Thomas service of the Library of Congress. I welcome comments and cosponsors, encourage citizens to understand that this is a work in progress, and urge Members to support the bill.

Following is a summary of how the IDEA Improvement Act of 1996 addresses key issues of interest:

OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA IMPROVEMENT ACT OF
1996 AS INTRODUCED APRIL 18, 1996

The following are the major improvements to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in the IDEA Improvement Act of 1996:

1. Funding Formula (§611). The bill makes a ten-year transition from a "head-count formula based on the number of children with disabilities counted in the State, to a population-based formula with a factor for child poverty. The new formula would be based 85% on number of children in the State and 15% on State poverty statistics. Transition years would use a declining fraction (90% in FY 1997 to 0% in FY 2006) under the current formula and an increasing fraction (10% in FY 1997 to 100% in FY 2006) under the new formula.

2. Least Restrictive Environment and State Funding Formulae (§612(a)(4)). The bill requires States to use "placement neutral" funding formulae for distributing funds within the State.

3. Discipline—"Stay-Put" (§615). Under current law, a school cannot suspend or expel a disabled student for more than 10 days except where the student has brought a gun to school. With guns, the school may remove a student from school for 10 days, and then may place the student in an "interim alter-

native placement" for up to 45 additional days. During that period, the student's Individual Education Program (IEP) team must agree on a new placement. If the parents and school disagree, the student will remain in their interim alternative placement for the pendency of any due process proceedings. This bill addresses the classroom safety issue, but maintains protections against arbitrary placement changes.

The student's IEP will include behavior management techniques to help avoid disruptive, dangerous, and inappropriate behavior.

The bill adds the following categories to the "firearms" category in current law, permitting removal from the classroom to an alternative educational placement for up to 45 days:

Bringing weapons to school;
Bringing illegal drugs to school or illegally distributing legal drugs;

Engaging in an assault and battery (striking another person with the intention of bringing about harmful or offensive contact which is not legally consented by the person); or

By proof of substantial evidence, representing a danger to oneself or others.

These terms and, in the case of the first three categories, which school official would have the discretion to remove the student would be defined through State law or policy.

The bill requires a review by the IEP team of whether the child's action was a manifestation of the disability. The team will consider the implementation of behavior management strategies in the child's IEP, the appropriateness of the placement, and other information presented by the parents. Where an action is not disability related, any school discipline policy applied to non-disabled students may be equally applied to the disabled student.

4. Mediation (§615(d)). Three-fourths of the states have established mediation systems on their own accord and have been successful in reducing the number of formal disputes. The bill requires states to offer voluntary mediation to parents prior to any administrative or judicial dispute. Attorneys would not be permitted to participate for either side in mediation, and attorney's fees would not be available for mediation proceedings.

5. Categorization/Eligibility (§602(3)(B)). The bill permits States to extend use of the "developmental delay" definition for children aged 3 to 5 (current law) up to age 9, but otherwise maintains the current categories.

6. Discretionary Programs (Part D). The bill reorganizes and consolidates the existing discretionary programs (currently Parts D-G, and I). Subpart I grants broad authority for national projects to the Secretary of Education. Subpart 2 permits State grants for reform and improvement of their special education and early intervention systems, with an emphasis on in-service and preservice professional development for general educators and special educators. Subpart 3 maintains the current Parent Training Center program.

7. Reduction of State Education Agency Funds Reservation (§611(c)). Current law

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

only requires that at least 75% of IDEA funds flow through to local schools. The bill would require states to pass at least 90% through to LEAs, with the remainder reserved for administrative and statewide activities, unless the State seeks a waiver permitting retention of an additional 15%.

8. Restructuring of Parental Notice Requirements (§615(c-d)). IDEA currently promotes the use of consolidated notices that notify parents of a host of procedural and other rights under the act. The prior written notice and the notification of procedural safeguards requirements in current law have been separated for the purpose of clarity. The prior written notice will only address actions proposed or refused by the local education agency (LEA). The new procedural safeguards notice provision details the frequency and content of the notice to be given to parents.

9. Attorney's Fees (Part B). The bill maintains the current law on attorney's fees by permitting them for parents who prevail against the school. Parents are required to have notified the school district of their concerns at some point prior to filing to obtain attorney's fees. In cases where there are multiple issues in dispute, the judge will be permitted to award fees only on the issues upon which the parents prevailed.

10. Policy Letters (§605(c)). Currently, many U.S. Dept. of Education "policy letters" are treated as having regulatory authority without being submitted to public comment or without having underlying regulatory authority. The bill limits the applicability of such letters to the parties to whom they have been addressed.

11. Parent's Right of Refusal for Initial Evaluation and Consent for Evaluation Not Construed as Consent for Services (§614(a)(1)(C)). The bill clarifies that the parents of a child who has been referred for an initial evaluation have the right to refuse that evaluation placing the onus of making an administrative appeal on the school district where it believes that a child needs special education services. This provision would also clarify that parental consent for a child's evaluation shall not be construed as consent for delivery of special education services based on that evaluation.

12. Commingling of Funds (current §613(a)(9)(A)). The bill maintains the requirement that funds must be expended for the benefit of special education students, but removes the prohibition on commingling of funds. This provision will only permit commingling of Federal and state special education funds. This change will not permit consolidation of Federal special education funds with other Federal funds or with other non-special education funds.

13. Personnel Standards and Personnel Development. The bill maintains the current requirement that States establish and enforce personnel standards (§612(a)(15)). In the bill's newly configured discretionary programs, the State Improvement Grant program will dedicate 75% of appropriated funds to personnel development (§674).

14. Narrow Exceptions for Maintenance of Local Education Agency (LEA) Effort (§613(a)(2)(B)). The bill permits school districts to reduce special education expenditures in the following limited circumstances: replacement of higher cost staff with lower cost staff, such as with retirement; departure of particular high-cost students from the LEA; decreases in special education enrollment; and one-time expenditures of funds by the LEA.

15. Payment for Placement of Students in Private Schools without the Consent of or

Referral by the Public Agency (§612(a)(9)(C)). This change would prevent tax-payer financed private school education where the public schools have never been given the opportunity to determine if the child can be served in public schools. This section would require parents to give 10-day written notice to receive reimbursement private, special education school tuition without LEA consent.

The bill would establish that local schools must be permitted to conduct an initial evaluation of a student prior to publicly-funded private school placement. Exceptions would include: (1) where parents are illiterate or cannot write English; (2) where providing notice would result in delay that would likely result in physical or serious emotional harm to the child; (3) where the school prevents the parent from providing notice; and (4) where parents did not receive notice of this requirement.

16. Disclosure of Evaluations and Recommendations (§615(f)). This provision would require schools and parents to disclose to the other party any evaluations and recommendations based on those evaluations 15 days prior to any due process proceeding. This change will ensure that both parties are given the opportunity to review evaluations of a child's special education needs that the other party intends to use in a due process hearing.

17. Modification of Requirements to Achieve Innovative Delivery of Services (§613(g)). This provision will apply to 10 LEAs or groups of LEAs selected by the Secretary of Education who have demonstrated excellence in providing services to students with disabilities and who have obtained the cooperation of parents of students with disabilities in the area. Selected LEAs will be permitted to modify existing Part B requirements for improving services to disabled students and for improving the operation of the local special education system. Analytic instruments will be developed to quantitatively determine the effectiveness of the modification, and determine the ability for replication of successful changes.

18. State Application for Part C (formerly Part H) (current §678). The bill essentially maintains the current Part H program as Part C. The bill will enable Part C funding applicants to reduce application process paperwork by eliminating the requirement that all State policies and assurances pertaining to Part C be filed with every application to the U.S. Department of Education. This language corresponds to the language in Part B.

PHOTOGRAPHIC TRIBUTE TO FORMER ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of my colleagues to an excellent exhibition of photographs—Yitzhak Rabin Remembered—which displays in pictures the life and accomplishments of assassinated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. This superb exhibit is now on display in the rotunda of the Cannon House Office Building. Last January when my wife, Annette, and I were in Israel on a private visit, we saw an outstand-

ing photographic exhibit about Prime Minister Rabin in the Israeli Knesset, and right there, Annette and I determined that we should make every effort to have those photographs brought here to Washington so that the Members of the Congress could have a greater understanding and appreciation of this great man of peace.

Through the efforts of the Speaker of Knesset, Prof. Shevach Weiss, and the Embassy of Israel here in Washington, we were able to arrange for these photographs to be displayed in the Cannon rotunda. Last night, we held a reception to mark the opening of this exhibit and to pay tribute to this most distinguished Israeli leader, this man of war who became a leader in the effort to bring peace and cooperation.

Those who paid tribute to Prime Minister Rabin last night were: Our distinguished colleague from Georgia, the Speaker of the House, NEWT GINGRICH; Pro. Shevach Weiss, Speaker of Knesset; Dalia Rabin Filosof, the daughter of Prime Minister Rabin; His Excellency Itamar Rabinovich, the Ambassador of Israel to the United States; and Walter Reich, executive director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial. Those of our colleagues who sponsored this event, in addition to Speaker GINGRICH, were Senators ORRIN HATCH of Utah and JOE LIEBERMAN of Connecticut; Democratic leader of the House, RICHARD GEPHARDT; and our House colleagues Congressman BENJAMIN A. GILMAN of New York, the chairman of our International Relations Committee; Congressman JOHN PORTER of Illinois; and Congressman HOWARD BERMAN of California. A number of our colleagues joined us in paying tribute, including Congressman BILL MARTINI of New Jersey and HOWARD COBLE of North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, it is entirely appropriate that we pay tribute to Prime Minister Rabin for his contributions to the State of Israel, our only stable democratic ally in the Middle East, and for his contributions to the peace process in that region.

Yitzhak Rabin was born in Jerusalem in 1922. He was only 26 years of age when the State of Israel was proclaimed in 1948, and in many ways his biography is the biography of Israel. He has played pivotal roles throughout his country's history.

In the war of Israeli independence in 1948, Yitzhak Rabin commanded the Harel brigade, which opened the road to besieged Jerusalem. He served in positions of command in the Israel Defense Forces, culminating with his appointment as chief of staff in 1964, when he led IDF forces to victory in the Six-Day War. Following his retirement from military service in 1968, he became Ambassador of Israel to the United States for a period of 5 years.

In 1973 when he returned to Israel, he was elected a member of the Knesset, and a year later in June 1974 he became Prime Minister, serving until 1977. During this period, disengagement agreements were signed with Egypt and Syria, followed by an interim agreement with Egypt. These were the key agreements that prepared the way for Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem. During the period of the coalition government, Rabin served as Minister of Defense from 1984-90.

In July 1992 he became Prime Minister for the second time and also Minister of Defense.

This period in office was marked by major landmarks in the peace process. On September 13, 1993, he signed the Israel-Palestinian Declaration of Principles on the South Lawn of the White House. On October 26, 1994, he signed the Treaty of Peace between Israel and Jordan. On September 28, 1995, he signed the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement at the White House. In recognition of his major contributions to Middle East peace, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in December 1994 along with Israeli Foreign Minister, now Prime Minister, Shimon Peres and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Few of us will ever forget the tragedy of his death on November 4, 1995. He was assassinated by an Israeli citizen shortly after speaking at a massive peace rally in Tel Aviv. In tribute to his contribution to the peace, kings, presidents and other heads of state and government from around the world participated in a memorial service honoring him at his burial in Jerusalem.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to pause in the Cannon rotunda to see these photographs—Yitzhak Rabin Remembered—and to honor the memory and the outstanding achievements of this great man.

A TRIBUTE TO TARA SAKRAIDA

HON. WES COOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States recently concluded its annual Voice of Democracy scriptwriting contest. One of the winners of this year's competition is a bright young student from North Medford High School in Medford, OR. Tara Sakraida has won the first place award for the entire State of Oregon. Her submission, entitled "Answering America's Call," serves as a moving tribute to the type of civic-minded community involvement that has motivated so many of our Nation's veterans.

If I may, Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit Tara Sakraida's award-winning essay for the record. "Answering America's Call"—by Tara Sakraida of Medford, OR.

ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL

Hi. You've reached 555-Americans, and we're either too busy or too lazy to answer the phone, so leave a message and we may call you back.

Hello? Hello? This is America, your country, calling. Is anyone home? Well, I needed to talk to someone . . . I'm feeling pretty low. People are burning my flag, Old Glory, as I speak. They are yelling and protesting that desecrating Old Glory is freedom of speech. Why are they doing this? After everything I have given them. A constitution, a democracy, freedom to make choices and decisions. I don't understand—they've chosen to dishonor me. Where are you, Americans? If you're sitting at home, please pull yourself away from the television and answer my call. We need Help.

When some people say the Pledge of Allegiance, they don't even place a hand over their hearts. They recite it unenthusiastically, like lyrics to an out-

dated song. And when my melodic, patriotic anthem is played, some do not stand or remove their hats, for they feel it is unnecessary or trite. The polls are no longer overflowing with anxious voters; many don't believe their vote makes a difference. And the meaning of Veteran's Day is often lost in the excitement of a vacation. Americans, are you doing something to solve these problems?

I'm asking each and every American to take time to listen and answer my cries. Begin by volunteering at a Domiciliary, giving blood to the Red Cross, or serving in the military. You can show patriotism by flying my flag; show your pride by standing when my anthem is played; and acknowledge those military crusaders by observing Veteran's Day. I hope you understand my message. Americans. I need you to come together as a community so my message can be heard.

I called Mr. Retired the other day. You know, your elderly neighbor across the street? His social security checks stopped coming, and he can't afford his high medical bills after breaking his hip. He needs your help.

I called a grieving mother yesterday. Her sobs and tears rang over the phone as she described her young son's death after being caught in a gang cross-fire. She needs your help.

I called a lonesome, homeless teenager today. He told the violent story of being beaten at home and turning to the streets for refuge. He needs your help.

Now I'm calling you, Americans. Please answer the call of rising health care costs by electing officials who will work to change the system. Answer the call of crime by educating children about the dangers of drugs, guns, and violence. And answer the call of abuse by confronting the problem and volunteering for Crisis Intervention Organizations or homeless shelters.

You've heard my call, Americans. Now don't hang up on me . . . I need you. I have given everything I can, and now it is up to you. I hope to hear from you soon, Americans. Good-bye.

*If you don't answer America's call, you may be disconnected.

THE FARM BILL

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I am inserting my Washington Report for Wednesday, April 3, 1996 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

THE 1996 FARM BILL

Congress recently passed the 1996 farm bill, and the President signed it into law. This seven-year bill makes sweeping reforms toward a free-market agricultural system. It also includes agricultural research, rural development, conservation, nutrition, and agricultural export and food assistance programs. Saving more than \$2 billion, the bill passed with my support.

Passage of the bill was helped because Congress was months late. On January 1, the 1990 farm bill expired, and the 1949 "permanent law" came into effect. Everyone agreed that the expensive 1949 law would be changed before harvest, but Congress took no action, and farmers were forced to make important business decisions in the dark. The congress-

sional leadership's decision last year to put farm legislation in the huge, omnibus budget bill was clearly a mistake, because it delayed action on this important, bipartisan measure.

CROP PROGRAMS

The heart of the bill is the so-called "Freedom to Farm" approach, which replaces commodity programs with a yearly payment to farmers—declining each year—based on their past production. The payment would be separated from specific crop production, letting farmers choose which crops to plant. Previous policy had used complicated payment formulas and required some land to be idled. Instead, the new bill gives farmers flat payments and independence. The only requirement is that farmers meet current conservation standards.

I have always supported a more market-oriented farm policy. This measure is a good step in that direction. The elimination of most planting restrictions will allow farmers to plant according to supply and demand, and to respond more efficiently to global markets. Reduced regulation will also ease the burden of paperwork on farmers.

DRAWBACKS

I agree with criticism of the Freedom to Farm approach that it fails to require farmers to farm in order to receive payments. This is a common-sense requirement, and it is disappointing that the leadership blocked an opportunity to vote on this issue. My suspicion is that farm issues will come back to Congress sooner than many expect. It was easier to pass major changes because crop prices are at their highest levels in decades. If falling prices threaten family farms, farmers may demand a better safety net in later years.

WETLANDS AND CONSERVATION

The final bill includes some limited wetlands reform, similar to a bill I helped introduce last year. Under current law, farmers are not allowed to farm on wetlands for environmental reasons. But it is difficult to determine exactly what a wetland is—particularly in tiny areas. An area that was dry one month might be wet the next, and two scientists can make different determinations. Moreover, farmers risk drastic penalties for even the smallest violation, even if they make a good faith effort to correct the situation.

The 1996 farm bill consolidates authority for agricultural wetlands in the Agriculture Department, and makes penalties proportional to any violation. The wetlands reforms in the farm bill are significant, but they fall short of the reforms that passed the House last year, but stalled in the Senate. This other measure addressed wetlands protection in a more comprehensive manner, narrowing the definition of wetlands, ensuring that the costs and benefits of regulation are analyzed with sound scientific evidence, and consolidating agricultural wetlands authority in USDA. Congress should revisit and pursue these important reforms.

The farm bill also reauthorizes the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). In effect, CRP leases environmentally sensitive farmland from farmers to reduce soil erosion, protect water quality, and promote wildlife. This program is credited for restoring numerous threatened species, including ducks and quail. CRP was not included in the original House bill, but it was added on the floor with my strong support. The new bill also includes provisions to assist livestock producers in protecting water supplies from animal waste.

EXPORTS

The 1996 farm bill includes an amendment I offered on the House floor to renew export and food assistance programs. Exports are critical to the average Hoosier farmer, who receives some \$32,000 in export sales each year. Export promotion and food assistance have been key to the success of U.S. agriculture in world markets.

The farm bill reauthorizes export and food aid programs through 2002 to help open new markets and counter unfair foreign subsidies. These efforts are especially important as we pursue additional reductions in foreign tariffs. We made progress in the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), but we must maintain our leverage to push our competitors to reduce their trade barriers further. The bill provides export credits for purchasing U.S. products, authorizes measures to help promote U.S. food products in tough foreign markets, and boosts the role of private entities in distributing U.S. farm products under food aid programs.

RESEARCH AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The new farm bill makes agricultural research and rural development a higher priority with a "Fund for Rural America". The fund would invest in rural infrastructure and housing, and make competitive research grants for technological advancement. These efforts pay for themselves dozens of times over in economic growth, increased productivity, and innovative uses for agricultural products. Many Hoosier farmers expressed their support for making research a higher priority, and I agree.

CROP INSURANCE

The farm bill includes provisions from a bill I cosponsored to allow farmers to waive crop insurance mandates if they forego future disaster payments. Under the old crop insurance program, farmers who chose to participate in USDA programs were required to purchase catastrophic insurance from the government, even if it made little sense for a particular farmer's crop or size of operation.

OTHER PROVISIONS

The new bill includes dairy reforms that phase out price supports and replace them with market loans. Unfortunately, the bill made only modest reforms to the sugar and peanut programs. These programs impose production quotas that protect a few sugar and peanut farmers at the expense of consumers. I voted to phase out both the sugar and peanut programs, but the effort failed.

CONCLUSION

The 1996 farm bill passed with broad bipartisan support. While not perfect, this legislation includes many important reforms. I believe it will strengthen the American farmer, both at home and abroad, and maintain the U.S. food supply as the cheapest and safest food supply in the world.

SUSAN AND ROBERT H. FRIEBERT,
RECIPIENTS OF AMERICAN JEW-
ISH COMMITTEE'S HUMAN RELA-
TIONS AWARD

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friends Susan and Robert

Friebert on receiving the American Jewish Committee's 1996 Human Relations Award.

Susan and Bob Friebert, together and as individuals, have left a lasting mark on their community and have touched the lives of literally thousands of people in the Milwaukee area.

Susan Friebert, through her involvement in organizations such as the Quality Education Commission, the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, and the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars, has made the education and well-being of Wisconsin's children a top priority. She is also very proud of her Jewish faith and heritage and has assumed leadership positions in the National Council of Jewish Women, the Wisconsin Jewish Conference, the Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations, and the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. Susan's involvement in these outstanding organizations has helped to ensure that Milwaukee's Jewish community remains an active and vital voice in Milwaukee's civic life.

Through his involvement in Wisconsin's legal community and the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, Bob Friebert has helped to shape our State's legal and political landscape. Bob was instrumental in organizing Wisconsin's State Public Defender's Office and also served as State chair of the Wisconsin Civil Liberties Union. While serving as chairman of the Wisconsin Jewish Conference, Bob helped to author and secure passage of Wisconsin's hate crimes law. He is also a leading Democrat and through the years, has played key roles in numerous local, State, and national political campaigns. Like his wife, Bob is also very proud of his Jewish heritage and has assumed leadership positions with organizations such as the Wisconsin Jewish council, the National Jewish Democratic Council, and the Milwaukee Jewish Council on Community Relations.

I commend Susan and Bob Friebert on receiving the 1996 Human Relations Award and on their outstanding service to our community.

GRAND OPENING OF MAIN
BRANCH, SAN FRANCISCO LI-
BRARY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on the 90th anniversary of the devastating 1906 San Francisco earthquake, to celebrate with the city of San Francisco a monumental achievement of community cooperation and commitment. I invite my colleagues to join me in conveying our congratulations and admiration to the people of San Francisco who have committed their precious resources to the construction of the new main branch of the San Francisco Library, a beautiful and highly functional testament to the love that San Franciscans have for their city and for books and education. It is a love that has found its voice through the coordinated efforts of corporations, foundations, and individuals.

A library should reflect the pride, the culture, and the values of the diverse communities that

it serves. The San Francisco main library will undoubtedly be successful in reaching this goal. The library will be home to special centers dedicated to the history and interests of African-Americans, Chinese-Americans, Filipino-Americans, Latino-Americans, and gays and lesbians. The library will be designed to serve the specialized needs of the businessman as well as the immigrant newcomer. It will become home to the diverse communities that make San Francisco unique among metropolitan areas of the world. It will also become a home, most importantly, that serves to unite.

The new San Francisco main library represents an opportunity to preserve and disperse the knowledge of times long since passed. The book serves as man's most lasting testament and the library serves as our version of a time machine into the past, the present and the future. This library, built upon the remains of the old City Hall destroyed 90 years ago today, is a befitting tribute to the immortality of thought. Buildings will come as they will most definitely pass, but the books of this new library and the information that they hold are eternal and serve as an indelible foundation that cannot be erased by the passage of time.

The expanded areas of the new main library will provide space for numerous hidden treasures that no longer will be hidden. The people of San Francisco will have the opportunity to reacquire themselves with numerous literary treasures previously locked behind the dusty racks of unsightly storage rooms.

Although the new San Francisco main library serves as a portal into our past, it also serves to propel us into the future. It is an edifice designed to stoke the imagination by providing access to the numerous streams of information that characterize our society today. The technologically designed library will provide hundreds of public computer terminals to locate materials on-line, 14 multimedia stations, as well as access to data bases and the Information Superhighway. It will provide education and access for those previously unable to enter the "computer revolution." The library will provide vital access and communication links so that it can truly serve as a resource for the city and for other libraries and educational institutions throughout the region. The new library will serve as an outstanding model for libraries around the world to emulate.

Like an educational institution, the San Francisco Library will be a repository of human knowledge, organized and made accessible for writers, students, lifelong learners and leisure readers. It will serve to compliment and expand San Francisco's existing civic buildings—City Hall, Davies Symphony Hall, Brooks Hall, and the War Memorial and Performing Arts Center. The library serves as a symbiotic commitment between the city of San Francisco and its people. In 1988, when electorates across the country refused to support new bond issues, the people of San Francisco committed themselves to a \$109.5 million bond measure to build the new main library building and to strengthen existing branch libraries. Eight years later those voices are still clearly heard and they resonate with the dedication of this unique library, built by a community to advance themselves and their neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, on this day, when we celebrate the opening of the new main branch of the San Francisco Library, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the community of San Francisco for their admirable accomplishments and outstanding determination.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID J. WHEELER

HON. WES COOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. COOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, on February 1, 1996, the President signed H.R. 2061, a bill to designate the Federal building in Baker City, OR in honor of the late David J. Wheeler. As the congressional representative for Baker City, and as the sponsor of H.R. 2061, I recently returned to Baker City for the building dedication ceremony. Mr. Wheeler, a Forest Service employee, was a model father and an active citizen. In honor of Mr. Wheeler, I would like to submit, for the record, my speech at the dedication ceremony.

Thank you for inviting me here today. It has been an honor to sponsor the congressional bill to designate this building in memory of David Wheeler. I did not have the privilege of knowing Mr. Wheeler myself, but from my discussions with Mayor Griffith—and from researching his accomplishments—I've come to know what a fine man he was. I know that Mr. Wheeler was a true community leader, and I know that the community is that much poorer for his passing. With or without this dedication, his spirit will remain within the Baker City community.

Mayor Griffith, I have brought a copy of H.R. 2061—the law to honor David Wheeler. The bill has been signed by the President of the United States, by the Speaker of the House, and by the President of the Senate. Hopefully, this bill will find a suitable place within the new David J. Wheeler Federal Building.

I'd like to offer my deepest sympathy to the Wheeler family, and to everyone here who knew him. And, I'd like to offer a few words from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow—who once commented on the passing-away of great men. His words—I think—describe Mr. Wheeler well:

If a star were quenched on high,
For ages would its light,
Still traveling down from the sky,
Shine on our mortal sight.
So when a great man dies,
For years beyond our ken,
The light he leaves behind him lies
Upon the paths of men."

So too with David Wheeler. His light will shine on the paths of us all—particularly of his family—for the rest of our days.

THE MINIMUM WAGE

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, April 17, 1996, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

Rewarding work is a fundamental American value. There are many ways to achieve that goal, including deficit reduction to boost the economy, opening markets abroad to our products, improving education and skills training, and investing in technology and infrastructure. Increasing wages must be a central objective of government policies.

The economy is improving. It has in recent years reduced the unemployment rate of 5.6%, cut the budget deficit nearly in half, and spurred the creation of 8.4 million additional jobs. Real hourly earning has now begun to rise modestly, and the tax cut in 1993 for 15 million working families helped spur economic growth.

But much work needs to be done. We must build on the successes of the last few years, and address the key challenges facing our economy, including the problem of stagnant wages. This problem will not be solved overnight, but one action we can take immediately, and which I support, is to raise the minimum wage.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

The minimum wage was established in 1938 in an attempt to assist the working poor, usually non-union workers with few skills and little bargaining power. The wage has been increased 17 times, from 25 cents per hour in 1938 to \$4.25 per hour in 1991. Currently some 5 million people work for wages at or below \$4.25 per hour, and most of them are adults rather than teenagers.

I support a proposal to increase the minimum wage 90 cents over two years, from its current level of \$4.25 per hour to \$5.15 per hour. The first 45 cents of the new increase would not even restore the buying power the minimum wage has lost since the last increase five years ago. Inflation has already eaten away 81% of that increase. If we do not act to increase the minimum wage this year, it will fall to a 40 year low in terms of purchasing power.

WHO EARNS MINIMUM WAGE

The typical minimum wage worker is a white woman over age 20 working in the service sector or the retail industry. About 60% of the minimum wage earners are women, and about 70% of the 12 million workers who would benefit from a minimum wage increase—since their wages are less than \$5.15 per hour—are 20 years of age or older. The average minimum wage worker brings home half of the family's earnings, so an increase in the minimum wage can make a real difference.

An increase in the minimum wage would benefit over 315,000 Hoosiers, or 12.4% of the Indiana workforce, and would mean an additional \$1800 in earnings each year.

EFFECT ON JOBS

Opponents of a minimum wage increase claim that it will wipe out jobs. But the weight of the evidence today supports the conclusion that a moderate minimum wage increase would not have a significant impact on job levels, because it would help boost productivity and lower employee turnover. Over 100 economists, including several Nobel laureates, have urged the President and Congress to approve a minimum wage increase and have affirmed that it would not have a significant effect on employment.

Opponents of a minimum wage increase also criticize it as being an inefficient way to alleviate poverty. In a sense they are right. A minimum wage increase is not as well targeted as the earned income tax credit, which directly benefits low-paid workers either by cutting their taxes or, if they owe

no tax, giving them a check from the Treasury. The credit is structured to encourage the poor to go to work without hitting their employers. My view is that the best anti-poverty strategy is probably to mix minimum wages with tax credits.

There are limits, however, to how much higher Congress can push the tax credit. The problem, of course, with increases in the earned income tax credit is that it costs the government billions of dollars that it does not have, and won't for many years. I do not, however, support efforts by Speaker Gingrich to reduce the earned income tax credit.

A MATTER OF FAIRNESS

Surely we want to help ensure that people who work hard can get ahead. Raising the income of America's lowest paid workers is part of meeting that challenge. If we value work, we ought to raise the value of the minimum wage. Most people believe that somebody who works a 40-hour week ought to make a wage they can live on. It is hard to believe that people can oppose that notion.

I have been particularly troubled by growing income inequality in this country, as the declining value of the minimum wage only contributes to that problem. For most of the past four decades the minimum wage averaged between 45% and 50% of the average hourly wage in the economy. After a small gain in 1990 and 1991, the minimum wage has now dropped to 38% of the average hourly wage.

My view is that the minimum wage should be increased as a simple matter of fairness to unskilled workers. These workers are not protected by unions. They cannot and do not lobby Congress. The minimum wage offers a margin of security to those who want a job rather than a handout. For a rich country like America, that's not too much to provide.

I have been frustrated in Congress in recent weeks when we were even denied an opportunity to vote on a raise in the minimum wage. It is unfair to refuse to allow a vote on the increase in the minimum wage, which is supported by 75% of the American people.

CONCLUSION

I don't for a moment think that an increase in the minimum wage is ultimately the cure for low working wages in this country, but until we find an answer to that broader question fundamental decency requires us to increase the income of the lowest-income working Americans.

I talked to a person earning minimum wage the other day. When pay day comes, she is several days late on the rent, the fuel tank on her automobile has to be filled, she is unable to buy enough food, her family is not healthy and needs medical help, and the utility companies are about ready to shut the power off. She is faced with miserable choices. But she said she was proud to be a working person, and only wished she could make a living for her family.

An increase in the minimum wage would help families get by. It would reward work, giving 12 million workers a direct increase, and it would be good for the American economy.

A PROCLAMATION REMEMBERING
SHELLY McPECK KELLY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Whereas, Shelly McPeck Kelly, a United States Air Force Technical Sergeant that died in the plane crash along with Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, and

Whereas, Shelly McPeck Kelly, was a loyal and devoted wife, and loving mother of two; and,

Whereas, Shelly McPeck Kelly, served faithfully as an airplane stewardess in the United States Air Force achieving the rank of Technical Sergeant, and

Whereas, Shelly McPeck Kelly, should be commended for her service to the United States of America during the Bosnian Peace-keeping Operation; and,

Whereas, the residents of Eastern Ohio join me in honoring Shelly McPeck Kelly for her brave and loyal citizenship to the United States.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN O. HEMPERLEY

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John O. Hemperley, the budget officer of the Library of Congress, who passed away last Saturday. As former chairman and now as ranking member on the Legislative Branch Subcommittee of Appropriations, Congressman VIC FAZIO, worked with John for many years and joins me in honoring his memory.

Appropriations Committee members and staff rely heavily on the expertise, efficiency, and responsiveness of agency budget officers. John embodied the highest standards of dedicated public service. Both Vic and I counted on his unsurpassed knowledge and understanding of the Library's budget. John fervently supported the Library's mission and the budget funding that mission. However, he always presented the facts honestly and faithfully executed the budget enacted by the Congress.

For 196 years, the Congress of the United States supported and nurtured the Library's development. Today, it stands as a unique and treasured institution—the greatest repository of knowledge in the history of the world. The Library continues to explore new frontiers, expanding its mission to provide electronic services to all its constituent groups while maintaining its traditional services to the Congress and the Nation.

John O. Hemperley was a unique and treasured individual. For the past 23 years, he developed and cultivated the relationship between the Library of Congress and the Committee on Appropriations. He will be sorely missed, not only by those who knew and loved him here in the Congress and in the Library, but by all those who may never have

known him but who benefit daily from the enormous resources the Library provides. The challenges the Library faces will be more daunting without him.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of our Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee, and for all other members of the Appropriations Committee, and our staff, I would like to express our great sorrow and extend our sincere condolences to John's wife, Bess Hemperley, their children, and grandchildren.

CHILDREN ARE OUR MOST
PRECIOUS POSSESSION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, our children are our most precious possessions. Both Republicans and Democrats theoretically and philosophically agree on this self-evident, but nevertheless profound truth. In practice and policymaking with respect to programs that benefit children; however, there is a deep chasm of disagreement between the two parties. Since it gained control of the House of Representatives the Republican majority has waged a cruel and unrelenting war on children.

While trumpeting its support for the "right-to-life" for unborn children, the Republican majority has made survival much more difficult for living children. Aid to Families with Dependent Children has been eliminated as a Federal entitlement in House legislation. Within the next few weeks it is expected that the White House will surrender and agree to remove this Federal protection for poor children that has existed since the New Deal. The entitlement for Medicaid which protects the health of our poorest children is also under attack with all of the State's Governors voting to eliminate it. The new Government-health care industrial complex has already begun to endanger the lives of newborn infants and their mothers by forcing them out of hospitals within 24 to 48 hours after birth.

Immigrant children will now be searched out in schools and denied school lunches if Republican legislation prevails. And, of course, immigrant children will be denied access to Medicaid. Cuts in funding for education threaten the provision of opportunity for all poor children. Republicans have proposed to cut even the very successful HeadStart Program. Teenagers who have benefited from the Summer Youth Employment Program for more than 20 years may be the victims of the zero funding passed by the Republican majority and find there are no jobs in this summer of 1996. Children in poor working families will continue to suffer despite the fact that their parents go to work every day but are still unable to adequately provide for their families on the present hourly minimum wage.

The "right-to-life" is just an empty slogan unless it is accompanied by programs and policies which provide an even playing field of opportunity for all children. On June 1 the Children's Defense Fund is sponsoring a great summit in Washington called "Stand For Children." This is a gathering which deserves the

support of all Members of Congress. We should all join the "Stand For Children" on that specific day. And for all the days before and after June 1 Congress should refocus on the business of protecting our most precious resource—children outside of their mothers' wombs as well as children inside the wombs.

MESSAGE FROM THE NEWBORN TO THE
FETUS

Man stay in there
The womb is where its at
Until tots slide out and breathe
The right-to-life is guaranteed
You never had it so good
Out here in America
They don't treat us
Like they promised they would
Right away at the hospital
They put us out
Cause my welfare Mom
Didn't have no clout
Stay where you are man
The womb is where its at
A smart fetus can live
Like a rich lady's cat
No food stamps for immigrants
But long picket lines protect
Our pre-birth rights
The womb they glorify
Outside they watch us die
The womb is where its at
Curled up in that nice nest
You always get the very best
But out here only fear
They'll take my entitlement
Man stay in there
Cash in on this fetus fetish
Be a hero embryo
Pro-life politicians
Offer nine months of love
But at birth's border
Immigrants from heaven
Receive a hellish shove
Until tots slide out and breathe
The right to life is guaranteed
Long protest lines protected
Our pre-birth rights
We crave the medals they gave
When we were hidden
Intimately way out of sight
The womb is where its at
Safely grow soft and fat
Immigrant school lunches are now gone
Budget cuts down to the bone
Newborns sound the trumpet
This land is littered
With ugly infant tombs
Babies must unite in battle
Make war to regain
Out wonderful respected wombs
The womb is where its at
Until tots slide out and breathe
The right-to-life is guaranteed
We appeal to the United Nations
We cry out to the Almighty Pope
The holy right of return
Is now our only hope
Man stay in there
The womb is where its at.

TRIBUTE TO MS. MARGARET
SIMMS

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a magnificent lady, Ms. Margaret Simms, who retired from 23 years of service to the

National Democratic Club [NDC] at the end of March. She played an important role in the daily lives of Members of Congress, political party representatives, lobbyists, and friends of the NDC. She will be sorely missed.

Margaret labored faithfully on behalf of the NDC. She performed her job with grace and perfection. She greeted all patrons with respect and courtesy. My constituents, family, friends, and I were beneficiaries of her geniality on numerous occasions. She was cherished by all of us.

On April 2, Members of Congress and friends of the National Democratic Club gathered to pay tribute to Margaret and to thank her for making their lives in Washington more pleasant. I was among those Members who took time during the recent congressional recess to personally express my appreciation to Margaret. In addition, I presented her with a proclamation, designating Tuesday, April 2, 1996 as "Margaret Simms Day" in the First Congressional District of Missouri, in recognition of her dedication, excellence, and hospitality to citizens of the First District. It was an honor much deserved.

I wish Margaret Simms great health and wonderful fellowship in her retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO THE VARICK FAMILY LIFE CENTER

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, April 20, 1996 the Varick Family Life Center will celebrate its official opening. The Center is a multi-service resource and support center for children and families in the Dixwell Avenue neighborhood of New Haven. It is with great pleasure that I rise today to commend this wonderful organization.

The Varick Family Life Center adheres to the Old African proverb "It takes a whole village to raise a child." The proverb encapsulates one of the main goals of the Center which is to make already existing services more available to the residents of the neighborhood. Parents will be guided through the use of family services and have an advocate as they seek the resources they need. Effectively bringing parents into contact with community resources will go a long way toward making parents feel connected to the community and neighborhood.

The second goal of the Center is to provide families with the tools to become self-sufficient. I believe that this dual focus of family and community will be the cornerstone of the Center's success. By integrating the many human services and programs available in New Haven neighborhoods, the Center hopes to insure that all the needs of the family are attended to and that no family slips through the cracks. By truly coordinating family services, the Center will make vital community resources more available to the families that need them.

The Center will maintain its focus on families by appointing four neighborhood residents and training them to act as Family Resource Specialists. These specialists will focus on the

social, health and financial concerns of needy families. I believe that this is the most crucial aspect of the Center. The Family Resource Specialists will work with parents to help them become more proactive rather than reactive in situations that affect their lives and families. Economic and financial concerns are addressed by the Center through job training and educational programs in the areas of budgeting and money management. By providing parents and families with these valuable tools we are enabling them to become more self-reliant and independent. We are giving them a chance to make a difference in their own lives and to feel that they have some control over their life's course. This is ultimately the most important and best solution to the problems and challenges faced by the residents of the neighborhood.

I commend the congregation and leadership of the Varick Memorial AME Zion Church for their amazing dedication to this worthwhile project. They have every reason to believe that their vision and hopes for the project will be realized. The Center is a wonderful community resource that should serve as a model for other cities and towns in Connecticut and in the Nation.

IN HONOR OF DR. HENRY PONDER

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege for me to pay tribute to one of Nashville's favorite citizens, Dr. Henry Ponder. Dr. Ponder is retiring from his position as President of Fisk University shortly, and he will be missed at that fine institution and in the Nashville community more than words can say.

I am certain, however, that we will not find Dr. Ponder resting on his laurels. In fact, he will be coming to Washington to head an organization whose mission is to further the cause of minority higher education. I look forward to having Henry and his lovely wife Eunice as neighbors in our Nation's Capitol. I am certain he will continue to make all of us very proud.

I have had the great pleasure over the years to interact professionally with Dr. Ponder on several occasions. Most recently, he came to Washington and we both testified in front of the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Lands in support of legislation I introduced that would provide much-needed monetary support for the restoration of historic buildings on the campuses of America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities. As a college president, Dr. Ponder has always attended to the needs of every aspect of university life. Not only was he responsible for eliminating a \$4 million debt at Fisk, he also staged an extremely successful 5-year, 25 million capital campaign that revitalized and re-energized the school.

By the same token, Dr. Ponder realized the importance of obtaining funds to restore badly deteriorating buildings, such as Administration Hall, whose history and significance are an embodiment of all that Fisk stands for. The

health of the complete university—from fundraising to student recruitment to building maintenance to school spirit—is Dr. Ponder's mission. By all accounts, he is leaving Fisk University in a state of wonderful health.

Dr. Ponder is a native of Oklahoma. He received his Bachelor of Science from Langston University, his Masters Degree from Oklahoma State University and his Ph.D. from Ohio State University. Prior to becoming president of Fisk, Henry Ponder served in various academic and administrative positions at universities throughout the Southeastern United States: president of Benedict College in Columbia, SC; vice president and dean of the College of Alabama A&M University; chairman of the department of agribusiness and assistant professor of that department at Virginia State College in Petersburg, VA.

Henry Ponder is also an economist of national and international renown. He has served as a consultant for and on special assignment to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Philadelphia National Bank, Chase Manhattan Bank, the Irving Trust Co. and Omaha National Bank. Dr. Ponder also serves on the Bishop Desmond Tutu Southern Africa Refugee Scholarship Fund committee. In 1986, he was chosen as one of the "One Hundred Most Effective College Presidents in the United States."

On behalf of all Nashvillians, Dr. Ponder, thank you for all you have done to improve the quality of life at Fisk and in the community. People with your dedication and energy are rare indeed, and those of us who have had the pleasure of working with you can only consider ourselves blessed for the lessons you have taught us and the example you have been. You have left an outstanding legacy of growth and achievement that will stand for decades to come. We wish you well in your new career. You will be missed.

SHERROD RAYBORN, LONGTIME LAWRENCE COUNTY CHANCERY CLERK, IS HONORED

HON. MIKE PARKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. PARKER. Mr. Speaker, today I stand in the Halls of Congress to ask you to join me in paying tribute to the late Sherrod Rayborn, who died March 24, 1996, at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center following heart surgery.

Sherrod Rayborn was elected to his first term as Lawrence County chancery clerk in 1972, and he served in that position for 24 years. At the time of his death at age 60, he had recently begun serving his seventh term. A native of Walthall County, he attended school in Lawrence County and spent his adult life in Monticello. Mr. Rayborn was a member of Bethel Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon. He also was minister of music at the church for the last 26½ years.

In addition to his career in politics, he also was known for his musical talents, his sense of humor, and his positive outlook. Several friends describe Sherrod Rayborn and his service to the county and the church as "irreplaceable." But I was particularly moved by

what his friend Carey Hedgepath told a local reporter: "He was a man of character. You could take for granted the accuracy of anything he told you."

These words are a fitting tribute to Sherrod Rayborn. Indeed, he is irreplaceable and truly an unforgettable friend to those who knew him. He will be greatly missed by his friends and family. He is survived by his wife, Madeleine; two sons, Mitch and Kevin; a daughter, Mali Rayborn Powell; a brother, W.T.; two sisters, Willene Alexander and Alyne Sumrall; and a grandson, Jerrod.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, I ask you again to join me in honoring a man of character, Sherrod Rayborn, his willing sacrifice of his time and energy for the public good, and his representation of all that is good, true, and steadfast in our society.

CAMP TALL TURF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this time to tell you about an extremely important and effective program for inner-city children and families in my district. Every summer since 1968, hundreds of children, ages 8-16, have been given the opportunity to get away from it all by attending Camp Tall Turf. The camp is appropriately named for its location among very large trees in Walkerville, MI. At Camp Tall Turf campers learn that God is present and that there can be no taller turf than that. The camp was established in response to racial strife that was prevalent during the sixties in cities across the Nation. Since that first summer over 15,000 young people have benefited from the positive Christian activities and messages presented by the caring, committed, and dedicated staff of Camp Tall Turf.

When the founders of this camp first came together, little did they know that their ideas and visions would reach this level almost 30 years later. The camp, located on Lake Campbell, provides an environment conducive to growing both mentally and spiritually. Through daily chapel, cabin devotions, drama, and singing, each camper gains a new outlook on his or her life and is able to store away these lessons for the future. These valuable lessons have helped prepare hundreds of children, who might not have received the opportunity otherwise, for roles of service and leadership in their young adult and adult lives.

It is important to point out that Camp Tall Turf is not just a one day, week, or month gathering. Staff members work year round to continue relationships that have been established at the summer camp. These relationships are so very important for the young people who need Christian role models and friends. In addition to encouraging meaningful and positive social relationships, the interaction between the staff and the child helps promote cooperation, companionship, and respect. Camp Tall Turf also helps to provide

opportunities and experiences that strengthen self confidence and build character in youths who are involved with the camp.

Mr. Speaker, far too often we read or hear negative stories involving children. Camp Tall Turf and its staff should be praised for their continuous effort to change the negatives that we read and hear about, and make them positive. Their work to enhance the quality of life and relationships of others should not go unnoticed and should serve as an example for others to follow. It is a great pleasure and honor for me to commend the founders, board and staff of Camp Tall Turf for their outstanding work.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, today is Holocaust Remembrance Day. It is a time to pause and pray for the day when mankind will value understanding over hate, respect over contempt, and life over death. Today we must take time to remember this event. We cannot let the day slip by without a solemn moment for remembrance.

I cannot know their names nor see their faces, but in my heart, in my mind, and in my prayers, I pause today to remember the millions of men, women, and children whose lives were taken in one of history's most heinous events—the Holocaust.

I ask my colleagues and the people of the world to do the same. Please pause for a moment today and recall the needless loss of mankind that was the Holocaust. While it must never be repeated, we must never forget its occurrence. Let the people of the world take time to recognize what happened and to recall those who perished. We owe them the time to remember.

IN MEMORY OF RUBY WORTHEN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a longtime civic and political leader from east Texas—Ruby Irene Worthen of Terrell—who died recently at the age of 95. Mrs. Worthen was an outstanding citizen who devoted a lifetime to helping those in her community, and she will be missed by all those who knew her.

Born on January 22, 1901, Mrs. Worthen served her community as a teacher, home demonstration agent for the Texas A&M Extension Service, real estate agent, and as a moving force in community activities in Terrell—especially in the development of services for senior citizens. On her 95th birthday this year, the Kaufman County Commissioners' Court recognized her life of dedication to others by proclaiming the day as Ruby M. Worthen Day in Kaufman County. The procla-

mation noted her many accomplishments and contributions to the community and stated that "she is perhaps most widely known and highly acclaimed as a loving and selfless caregiver to anyone in need, having provided meals and a place to live for many through the years."

Mrs. Worthen was active in the Democratic Party. She taught the senior adult ladies Sunday school class at the First Baptist Church for several years. She also was active in the AARP.

Mrs. Worthen was preceded in death by her husband, Don; a sister, Idella Coffman; and a brother, T.O. Mashburn. She is survived by a brother, Eugene Mashburn of Dallas, a sister, Thelma Mashburn of Terrell, and other relatives and friends. She was well-loved and well-respected in Terrell, and she will be missed by all those who knew her. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay a final tribute to this outstanding community leader, Ruby Irene Worthen of Terrell, TX.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF APHIS EMPLOYEES

HON. E de la GARZA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago, on April 19, 1995, 168 people were murdered in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. The explosion killed scores of innocent children and adults, injured hundreds, and devastated thousands of lives. We remember and honor them all.

I took part in a ceremony in South Texas in which the Kika de la Garza Elementary School in the La Joya school district planted a tree in memory of the children who died in the Oklahoma bombing to link themselves to the loss. I was particularly moved by this ceremony because although they did not know any of the children personally, they had a common bond in that they were children also.

I, too, have a common bond with some of the victims. In this case the bond is the agricultural community.

Among the victims were seven employees of the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service—dedicated workers who left a legacy of service and believed that protecting American agriculture was a goal worth achieving.

These were people who were loved by their families and friends and respected by their colleagues. Today, we especially remember and honor these APHIS employees.

We honor as well the survivors and the many people who gave of themselves to aid in rescue efforts and reach out with helping hands and loving hearts. In their hope, we found hope; in their strength, we found strength; in their actions, we found the power to act. In adversity, America came together.

Robert Green Ingersoll said "in the night of death hope sees a star and listening love can hear the rustle of a wing." We remember those who lost their lives in Oklahoma. We embrace those who were left behind, and we hope our caring helps soothe their grief.

Together, we all listen for the rustle of a wing that whispers of hope.

PROBLEMS WITH TRUTH IN BUDGETING

HON. BILL ORTON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. ORTON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House considered and passed H.R. 842, the so-called Truth in Budgeting Act. During my statements in opposition to this unwise bill, I made reference to a letter sent last year by the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, in opposition to this bill.

I would now like to enter this letter into the RECORD. I believe it makes a compelling case against enacting this bill into law.

COUNCIL FOR CITIZENS AGAINST

GOVERNMENT WASTE,

Washington, DC, March 16, 1995.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: We were intrigued when we learned of proposals to move the various transportation trust funds off-budget and out of the hands of the usual budgeting and appropriations process. Despite proponents' arguments for "truth in budgeting," we discovered that advocates of off-budget transportation trust funds seek not to increase fiscal accountability but to increase the ease of pork-barrel spending.

While the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure does not have a corner on congressional pork-barrel spending, the committee's record is seriously tarnished. The 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), replete with such dubious pork as studying the use of zebra mussels as an infrastructure building material or building bicycle paths with highway funds, is as much evidence as we need to conclude that the off-budget trust funds proposal lacks credibility.

There is also alarming and vicious counter-attack from pork-barrelers to Rep. Bill Orton's suggestion that line-item veto authority extend to "contract authority" for which transportation authorizations are famous. Since the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW) testified at joint line-item veto hearings in favor of presidential authority over contract authority as proposed by Rep. Orton, you can understand that we are suspicious that the off-budget transportation trust funds gambit is yet another end-run for the pork-barrel goal line.

The past pattern of pork-barrel abuse in funding highway, airport and waterway projects compels us to recommend in the strongest possible manner that you defeat any attempt to move the transportation trust funds off-budget. Indeed, a message needs to be sent to the entire Transportation and Infrastructure Committee—majority and minority—that we had an election last November. The old days are gone.

A final note: Not gone, apparently, are threats to cancel projects in the districts of legislative opponents, an all-too-frequent bullying tactic of the folks who used to run Congress that showed up again in the debate on the Orton amendment to the line-item veto bill. CCAGW deplores such threats and, knowing that the public would not take kindly to such intimidation and threats, hopes Members will make them known when they occur.

Sincerely,

TOM SCHATZ,

President.

JOE WINKELMANN,

Chief Lobbyist.

THE FUTURE IS OURS TO CREATE

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to welcome the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society [WOCN] to my congressional district, Seattle, WA, on June 15-19, for their 28th annual conference. The theme of the conference, "The Future is Ours to Create," will focus on future opportunities and challenges relating to the changing and expanding role of enterostomal therapist [ET] nurses and other nurses specializing in wound, ostomy, and continence care.

Founded in 1968, the WOCN is the only national organization for nurses who specialize in the prevention of pressure ulcers and the management and rehabilitation of persons with ostomies, wounds, and incontinence. WOCN, an organization of ET nurses, is a professional nursing society which supports its members by promoting educational, clinical, and research opportunities, to advance the practice and guide the delivery of expert health care to individuals with wounds, ostomies, and incontinence.

In this age of changing health care services and skyrocketing costs, the WOCN nurse plays an integral role in providing cost-effective care for their patients. This year's Seattle conference will provide a unique opportunity for WOCN participants to learn about the most current issues and trends related to their practice. I am honored that WOCN has chosen Seattle to host its conference and wish them every success.

AMERICA DESERVES A RAISE

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, while the President offers a politically appealing, yet ineffective plan to give Americans a raise, my Republican colleagues and I have a very sound plan to give millions of working American families more money in their paychecks and greater power to decide how and where the Federal Government spends their hard earned pay.

Under the President Clinton's plan to raise the minimum wage, countless employers will have to rob Peter to pay Paul. Millions of working men and women will lose job opportunities, employment security, and pay raises. The Republican plan gives Americans the raise they deserve. It provides tax relief for families with children. Over 6 million new and more secure high-wage jobs will result from a balanced budget and less Washington red-tape.

Mr. Speaker, the President's plan to raise the minimum wage is a bad policy. It is simply a political ploy designed to divide America along class, ethnic, and gender lines. Even some of the President's own advisers, agree that his proposal hurts the people most in

need: low-skilled workers, women and inter-city residents. It does not help working families.

American families deserve more. They deserve to keep more of their hard earned money, they deserve lower interest rates and they deserve better, higher wage jobs. My Republican colleagues and I provide working families a true raise—the President's policies do not.

THANK YOU, VIRGINIA CARTER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, dedicated individuals who are willing to put the interests of those in their community ahead of their own comforts are people we should admire. The people of Sanilac County within my congressional district have been blessed with such an individual, Mrs. Virginia Carter, who is retiring after 20 years as a member of the Sanilac County Mental Health Board's Recipient Rights Advisory Committee.

People who have benefited from the excellent care provided by Sanilac County Mental Health Services have most assuredly benefited from programs either pioneered by Virginia Carter—supported employment, for example—or thriving because of her devotion to maintaining these important programs.

Not only has Virginia Carter served for 20 years on the recipient rights committee, she has been elected chairperson for 18 of those years, a real testimony to the fact that she is held in high esteem by her colleagues on the committee.

Mental health care can be a particularly trying field. Most people have a more difficult time dealing with the identification and treatment of mental health problems. Signs are not as easily identified as is a cold, nor is treatment as easy as a prescription for several days. Those who deal with the needs for mental health services must be patient, understanding, and resilient. They also need to have the support of understanding people like Virginia Carter who knows the meaning of pursuing quality care.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to know many fine, dedicated people who live in Sanilac County. It is a particular pleasure to join with so many of them who will be honoring her at a special retirement event this Friday evening.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing her the very best.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT E. HENDERSON

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Robert E. Henderson, as he retires as President and Director, Chief Executive Officer of the South Carolina Research

Authority [SCRA]. The SCRA was established in 1983 as a nonprofit scientific and engineering corporation to address national and international manufacturing issues through the development of new technologies. For the past 12½ years, Dr. Henderson has shaped the SCRA into the dynamic organization that it is today, and South Carolinians are most appreciative of the contributions that he has made to our State and to the Nation.

Under the leadership of Dr. Henderson, nearly one-half billion dollars have been invested, sold, and/or contracted through SCRA research parks and technology management programs. In addition to leading South Carolina to the cutting-edge of technology, the SCRA has become a recognized leader nationally, through SCRA projects, technology, and corporate teams representing activity in almost every State in the Union.

Dr. Henderson has always responded to the call of his country and his community. During World War II, he served as a staff sergeant in the infantry of the U.S. Army, and was awarded the Purple Heart medal. He then received the bachelor of arts degree in physics from Carlton College, as well as the masters of arts degree in physics and the doctor of philosophy degree in physics from the University of Missouri.

Dr. Henderson has distinguished himself in the fields of physics and engineering, and he has published numerous scholarly articles. He has been appointed to the Defense Science Board and the Defense Manufacturing Board, in addition to having served as president of the Indianapolis Scientific and Engineering Foundation, director of the International Solar Energy Society, and a member of the Board of Visitors of Clemson University. He recently received South Carolina's highest recognition, The Order of the Palmetto.

Dr. Henderson has made great contributions to South Carolina and to our country through an outstanding career that has been diverse and exemplary. He is wished much continued success as he moves on to face new challenges and rewards.

TALENTED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS REPRESENTING OREGON

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, on April 27–April 29, 1996, more than 13,000 students from 50 States and the District of Columbia will be in Washington, DC, to compete in the national finals of the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" Program. I am proud to announce that the class from Lincoln High School from Portland will represent Oregon and the First Congressional District. These young scholars have worked diligently to reach the national finals by winning local competitions in their home State.

The distinguished members of the team representing Oregon are: Students: Vasiliki Despina Ariston, Jereme Rain Axelrod, Rebekah Rose Cook, Tawan Wyndelle Davis, David Eyre Easterday, Amanda Hope

Emmerson, Tiffany Ann Grosvenor, William John Hawkins IV, Soren Anders Heitmann, Stacy Elizabeth Humes-Schulz, Martissa Tamar Isaak, Heather Brooke Johnson, Katherine Mace Kasameyer, Christopher Michael Knutson, Jeanne Marie Layman, Daniel Hart Lerner, Casey James McMahon, Lindsay Katrina Nesbit, Gerald William Palmrose, Mary Ruth Pursifull, Catherine Clare Rockwood, Daniel Boss Rubin, Elizabeth Leslie Rutzick, Mark Richard Samco, Kathryn Denelle Stevens, Simon Brendan Thomas, Miles Mark Von Bergen, Lauren Elizabeth Wiener, and Farleith Aiken Wolfe.

I would also like to recognize their teacher, Mr. Hal Hart, who deserves much of the credit for the success of the team. The district coordinator, Mr. Daniel James, and the State coordinator, Ms. Marilyn Cover, also contributed a significant amount of time and effort to help the team reach the national finals.

The "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" Program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The 3-day national competition simulates a congressional hearing in which students' oral presentations are judged on the basis of their knowledge of constitutional principles and their ability to apply them to historical and contemporary issues.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the "We the People" Program, now in its ninth academic year, has reached more than 70,400 teachers, and 22,600,000 students nationwide at the upper elementary, middle and high school levels. Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers.

The "We the People" Program provides an excellent opportunity for students to gain an informed perspective on the significance of the U.S. Constitution and its place in our history and our lives. I wish these students the best of luck in the national finals and look forward to their continued success in the years ahead.

THE WATER QUALITY PUBLIC RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT OF 1996

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Water Quality Public Right-To-Know Act of 1996. This bill will guarantee the public's right to know about the contaminants that they are exposed to in their drinking water.

Under current law the public has no information about the presence of serious contaminants in their drinking water. Every year millions of Americans unknowingly drink tap water contaminated with cryptosporidium, carcinogens, and arsenic. If we can't prevent this contamination, we should at least give our constituents the ability to protect themselves.

The Water Quality Public Right-To-Know Act of 1996 will require water systems to annually report to their customers a plainly worded ex-

planation of the health implications of contaminants present in their drinking water. It also allows States the flexibility to shape this program.

During the last 2 years many of my Republican colleagues have argued for a devolution revolution. They have urged that we move power from the Federal Government to the State and local level. My legislation goes one step further. It requires that information be given directly to our constituents, which will allow them to make individual choices about the level of exposure to dangerous contaminants.

A TRIBUTE TO CHARLOTTE J. VISCIO

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct the Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. This year more than 116,000 secondary school students participated, competing for 54 national scholarships.

I am pleased to announce that my constituent, Ms. Charlotte J. Viscio, a senior at Guilderland Central High School in Guilderland, NY, has been named a national winner and recipient of the Larry W. Rivers Scholarship Award.

This year's theme was "Answering America's Call." I found great inspiration in Charlotte's words and wanted to share them here with my colleagues. They are as follows:

It doesn't sound like a trumpet or an angel's harp. Nor does it echo like a cannon or fire crackers on the Fourth of July. It's not about war or winning. Nor is it about uniforms or medals. It's not just for leaders or peacemakers, soldiers or sons. Nor is it only for women. Whether ten or eight times ten, age makes no difference. The call of America is simply what United States citizens, proud and loving of their country, answer to when their services are needed.

In some, the call is not loud, while in others, it's the only thing that they hear. For the President of the United States, this call is his job description. If he fails to answer, he's failed as America's leader and role model. Some Americans hear the call loud and clear and enlist in the military. Often, they are sent to foreign countries to strive for an American goal, realizing that they might lose their lives for America. And what, exactly, in America is worth fighting for? What is in our country's history that is worth preserving? It is the strongest nation in the world. It is a symbol of hope for countries striving for democracy. It is a place on the earth where all nationalities, religions, sexes, races and colors are unified by equality. America screams of hope and strength and leadership. And this is within every American.

To be an American is a choice. Just because a person lives in the United States does not mean that he or she is a true American. A true American recognizes the call and is willing to answer it. It is not hard to answer. Some answer by volunteering their services to fire companies, food drives and

charities. Others collect litter from the sides of roads, improving the appearance of American land. Many people answer the call by casting their votes on election day for the candidates they feel will make strong American leaders. All these activities are examples of how people answer America's call, giving of themselves for the betterment of their country.

What called these Americans to their duty? Was it a television or radio advertisement? Were they inspired by a hero or a role model? Or, was it simply the voice inside them, the voice of their conscience leading them to serve their country? Within every true American's heart, the call exists.

Answering this call is the duty of an American. The United States is a proud country, but it isn't self-centered. It has concern for other nations around the world and strives to help these nations. This is a reflection of its people. Since they are willing to give their services to their country they make life better not only for themselves but for their fellow Americans and others around the world.

America is the voice of democracy. It is not the voice of one person but of all Americans, an accumulation of answers they have given to their calls. Nothing sounds louder than America's response. Nothing is more powerful. This is the foundation of the United States of America. A person simply needs to listen closely for the call within and then respond with the conviction that shows and professes, "I'm proud to be an American."

CONGRATULATIONS HERITAGE
CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS—"WE THE PEOPLE" CHAMPIONS

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a group of students from Heritage Christian High School in West Allis, WI, and their teacher, Mr. Tim Moore, on being judged this year's State of Wisconsin "We the People" champions.

The "We the People" program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education by an act of Congress, promotes the study of our Nation's Constitution. Mr. Moore's students have displayed an exceptional foundation of knowledge of its history, as well as the constitutional issues of today.

The Heritage Christian High School group has been given the honor of representing the State of Wisconsin in the national "We the People" competition to be held here in Washington, DC. I am very proud that these students come from Wisconsin's Fourth Congressional District and commend their hard work and dedication.

Once again, I congratulate Mr. Moore and his students and wish them the very best of luck in the upcoming competition.

RONALD J. DEL MAURO HONORED
FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP
BY MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ronald J. Del Mauro, president and CEO of St. Barnabas Health Care System. On April 20, 1996, Mr. Del Mauro will be honored by the Mental Health Association of Essex County for his outstanding leadership and philanthropy in serving as head of the St. Barnabas Behavioral Health Care System. His work has helped thousands of residents who are often the most vulnerable members of our population—the mentally ill.

Mr. Del Mauro created the St. Barnabas Behavioral Health Network because, unfortunately, for many parents and their children, a number of health services are often separated for those with psychiatric problem and those with substance abuse problems. Mr. Del Mauro, recognizing this, created the St. Barnabas Behavioral Health Network to provide parents and their children with a place to turn get appropriate diagnosis and treatment.

Mr. Del Mauro is also responsible for the St. Barnabas Health Care System which includes, in addition to St. Barnabas Medical Center, the 201-bed Union Hospital, four nursing homes with 660 beds, 10 corporate affiliates and 20 for-profit business ventures. The St. Barnabas Health Care System operates in 13 facilities throughout New Jersey and the Behavioral Health Network has 17 locations in the tristate area. More than 7,000 employees, including 1,800 physicians, treat a total of 59,000 inpatients, and provide treatment and services for more than 300,000 outpatient visits annually.

I recently had the opportunity to visit St. Barnabas and tour their facility in Livingston, NJ. The health care delivery system Mr. Del Mauro has developed is an outstanding one and I would strongly recommend any of my colleagues look to at St. Barnabas as a national model.

Mr. Del Mauro is also an active and effective leader in other areas. He serves as chairman of the New Jersey Hospital Association, as well as being a member of the Center for Health Affairs, Inc., Life Sciences Advisory Committee of the CIT Group, Inc., Seton Hall University Center for Public Services Advisory Council, board of trustees of the Paper Mill Playhouse and the Essex/Hudson/Union Hospital Council.

He is a graduate of Seton Hall University, where he served as an adjunct professor at the Graduate School of Public Administration from 1983 to 1985.

Mr. Speaker, today I honor Mr. Del Mauro for his leadership in helping to make our communities a healthier place to live and for his ongoing commitment to the mentally ill in New Jersey.

MORE INDIAN OPPRESSION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 18, the Indian police detained six Kashmiri leaders when they tried to peacefully walk to India's military headquarters in the Kashmiri capital of Srinagar to protest India's human rights violations.

The six, who are well known on Capitol Hill for their tireless efforts to win the right of self-determination for Kashmiris and are all executive members of the All Parties Hurriyat—Freedom—Conference, were stopped by police as they approached the United Nations Military Observer Group's office. Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Abdul Gani Lone, Shabir Shah, Abdul Gani Bhat, Moulana Abbas Ansari, and Yasin Malik were only allowed to walk 2 kilometers—1 mile—through the deserted streets on Srinagar before being detained by police.

Mr. Speaker, as you may know, the Government of India has banned public gatherings in Kashmir to prevent protests against India for its terrible human rights violations against the people of Kashmir. In response to this continual brutality, the Hurriyat had called a strike in the Kashmir Valley and asked Kashmiris to remain indoors. Why did these leaders risk their lives to challenge India? According to Abdul Gani Bhat—one of the detainees, we walked to offer our lives to the Indian army for peace and stability in the whole sub-continent.

Most of these leaders have already narrowly escaped attempts on their lives by renegade militant groups which have been armed and supported by India's intelligence agencies. So perhaps for them—risking their lives one more time is business as usual. Nevertheless, their bravery to secure peace and happiness for the people of Kashmir should not be ignored here in the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Speaker, while I wish I could say that this most recent incident is isolated—it is not. For the last decade, the Government of India has used every measure at its disposal to suppress the peace-loving people of Kashmir who desire nothing more than the internationally-recognized right of self-determination. As Thursday's events demonstrate, the leadership of India only respects the right of free speech when the words are spoken by the majority Hindu population. The time has come for the U.S. Government to forcefully condemn this tyrannical behavior and demand the immediate release of these six Kashmiri leaders.

If India ever hopes to be treated as the world class power it believes it is—it must respect human rights.

IN HONOR OF THE HOMETOWN
TREES PROGRAM

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hometown Trees Program for

its dedicated service toward improving and preserving hometown landscapes. The program which began 4 years ago will plant its 4 millionth tree on Earth Day, April 22, 1996. I would also like to take this opportunity to honor Kristin Hyman, the 9-year-old grand-prize winner in a nationwide contest on the importance of trees.

The Hometown Trees Program has prospered since its inception 4 years ago. Every spring, the program teams up with thousands of local volunteers who plant trees in their communities to ensure that future generations will enjoy their natural beauty. To date, through the Hometown Trees Program, more than 3 million trees have been rooted in over 1,500 cities in 43 States.

The program's pledge to enhance, protect and generate awareness about the environment is of great importance. The planting of one tree today will serve the community for hundreds of years to come. This program also develops amongst our children an appreciation for nature that will serve our Nation for generations that follow.

In February, a nationwide essay contest was held to increase children's environmental awareness and appreciation. I am pleased to announce to my colleagues that the winner of the nationwide event was 9-year-old Kristin Hyman of Bayonne, NJ. Her poem, "Tree Reasons," was selected from the hundreds of entries received in her age group for its creativity and uniqueness. I am proud to say that she will be honored in a special ceremony in her hometown on Earth Day.

I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the achievements of the Home Trees Program and its continuing commitment to the environment. I would also like to pay tribute to Kristin Hyman, a special young lady who has demonstrated to her community that no one is ever too young to care for and appreciate the environment. I am proud to have such a talented young woman living within my district.

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

HON. CARLOS A. ROMERO-BARCELÓ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Democratic efforts to raise the Federal minimum wage.

The proposal for a moderate 90-cent increase in 2 years is needed because workers at the minimum wage level have actually seen their real incomes decrease in the last decades. In 1979, the minimum wage was the equivalent of about \$6 per hour in 1996 dollars.

Real wages and the purchasing power of millions of families have become stagnant. We must support the incentives that reward hard work, such as a minimum wage.

When I was Governor of Puerto Rico, I took the bold step of asking the Federal Government to extend minimum wage laws to Puerto Rico, where at the time they did not apply. Special interests and many corporations lobbied hard against it, predicting economic havoc and job displacement.

Such bleak scenarios did not materialize. In fact, the minimum wage has been a blessing for the 3.7 million American citizens of Puerto Rico. It raised the standard of living of thousands of working class families, took tens of thousands of working families out of welfare and brought them added dignity.

Both sides of the aisle should seek to promote and assure a decent standard of living for all Americans. Raising the minimum wage is a wise move, based on solid economic policy and common sense.

I urge our colleagues to support raising the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour over the next 2 years. Millions of hard working Americans who deserve better economic opportunities will appreciate our leadership.

SALUTE TO DON NICOLAI, CHEVRON USA AND OLYMPIC HIGH SCHOOL

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to salute the contributions of Chevron USA and particularly their dedicated employee Don Nicolai, manager of business products and services, to Olympic High School in Concord, CA.

Mr. Nicolai first became involved with Olympic High School when he served as "principal for a day" in 1994 through a local schools and business partnership initiative. That service for a day turned into much, much more, prompting the Olympic staff and students to vote to rename their guest principal "hero of the year." The expanse of Mr. Nicolai's contributions includes a donated van for transporting students, numerous pieces of equipment and furniture, work experience and summer employment opportunities for Olympic students and sponsorship of ongoing employability skills training seminars. Additionally, Mr. Nicolai has made it possible for several other Chevron employees to be present in the classrooms, working directly with students to share their professional expertise and personal talents.

Don Nicolai and Chevron USA have formed a substantive, long-term partnership with Olympic High School that goes far beyond the rhetoric of school-business partnerships or school-to-work transition. They see the value in a well-prepared work force and recognize that changing the social and economic conditions that plague our communities today must be addressed by individuals and businesses which can lend a helping hand.

I am pleased to rise today to recognize Mr. Don Nicolai, and I am confident that my colleagues join me in this tribute.

IN TRIBUTE TO DAVID LEON FORD

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, 33 Americans were taken from us far too early in the plane

that crashed April 3 near Dubrovnik. This morning, we paid tribute to our good friend, Secretary Ron Brown. At this time, I want to commemorate one of those brave souls traveling with the Secretary, Mr. David L. Ford.

David Ford was one of 12 American business executives accompanying Secretary Brown on a mission with the most noble goal of helping the people of Bosnia and Croatia to rebuild their war-ravaged countries. An executive with Guardian Industries, headquartered in Michigan, David was to donate 23 metric tons of flat glass to Sarajevo, enough to produce about 8,000 windows for use in rebuilding the Bosnia capital. After the trade mission ended in tragedy, the glass was delivered to Sarajevo as planned and donated to the people by the U.S. Embassy.

David Ford's career at Guardian began in 1971, and he spent time at its facilities around the country, including several years at the Guardian plant in Carleton, MI, in my congressional district. He helped lead his company's expansion into the European market, and at the time he was taken from us he headed Guardian's European operations.

We will remember David Ford as a successful businessman, but more importantly, his wife and two children will remember him as a loving husband and devoted father. He was a deeply religious man, who before his passing was able to provide some desperately needed relief to the people of Sarajevo. There, his final effort will be honored by a plaque.

I know that my colleagues join me in sending our thoughts and prayers to his family.

TRIBUTE TO RAKI NELSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to acknowledge Raki Nelson, a young man who is destined to achieve greatness. Raki is the 1996 Watkins Award Winner, and has been honored as the premier African-American student-athlete in the country.

Raki has committed to attend Notre Dame University as a wide receiver on a full football scholarship. He has achieved recognition for not only his dazzling display on the football field, but his contributions to his community. As the recipient of the Watkins Award, he is being honored for exemplifying leadership. Franklin Watkins was one of the founding fathers of the National Alliance of African-American Athletes. The alliance lists a host of professional athletes who support the organization's endeavors, including Reggie White, Green Bay Packers; Charlie Ward, New York Knicks; and Royce Clayton of the St. Louis Cardinals.

Raki's sterling career as a wide receiver ended with 185 catches for 34 touchdowns which generated 3,132 total yards. However, the hallmark of his efforts was his community action poster. He and a fellow team member distributed and autographed posters for grade school and midget football programs throughout his home State of Pennsylvania. I am pleased to recognize one of college football's

future stars, and a shining light in his own community.

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA 100TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER-DANCE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 20, 1996, at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick, NJ, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Local No. 65, of Perth Amboy, NJ, will hold its 100th anniversary dinner-dance.

It is a great honor for me to join the members of Local No. 65 for this momentous occasion. The Carpenters and Joiners have consistently been a strong supporter and a tireless fighter, not only for the needs of their own members, but for the American worker in general. In a time when labor unions are being attacked and the gains that organized labor has made over the past century are under constant threat, I have stood up to defend the livable wages and good working conditions that have contributed to the creation of the great American middle class.

Mr. Speaker, this 100th anniversary is a great occasion for us all to remember the important contributions that labor unions have made and continue to make to improve the quality of life at home and abroad.

A SALUTE TO CHARLES ALFRED ANDERSON, TRAINER OF TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

HON. GLEN BROWDER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. BROWDER. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House will be saddened to know that Charles Alfred Anderson, who trained the Army's first black fliers in Alabama and formed the famed Tuskegee Airmen during World War II, has died. He was 89.

Mr. Anderson was a self-taught pilot who served as the chief instructor of Tuskegee University's pilot training program from 1938 through 1945. To thousands of fliers, he was known affectionately as "Chief."

Members may recall "The Tuskegee Airmen," an HBO movie last year, which told the story of the 332d Fighter Group and its exploits over North Africa, Sicily, and Europe. Those African-American flyers destroyed 260 enemy planes, damaged an additional 148, and sank a Nazi destroyer. No U.S. bomber under the protection of the Tuskegee airmen was ever shot down.

The roster of fliers who trained under "Chief" Anderson includes Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James, the Nation's first four-star black general; Coleman Young, who became mayor of Detroit; and William Coleman, Transportation Secretary under President Gerald Ford.

Mr. Anderson was an aviation pioneer, a teacher, and a great American. I wish to extend my condolences and deep sympathy to his two sons, Alfred Forsythe Anderson of Seattle and Charles A. Anderson, Jr. of Tuskegee, and to his three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The Opelika-Auburn News published a wonderful account of Mr. Anderson's career and his exploits in the early days of flying. This salute to the father of black aviation was written by men who knew "Chief" well. I am attaching the article for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

An equally impressive article was published in the Tuskegee News and that is included for publication also.

[From the Opelika-Auburn News, Apr. 17, 1996]

FAMED TUSKEGEE AIRMAN DIES

(By Vascar Harris and Roosevelt J. Lewis, Jr.)

TUSKEGEE.—Charles Alfred "Chief" Anderson, a self-taught pilot who trained the military's first black fliers and formed the famed Tuskegee Airmen, died Saturday at age 89 after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Anderson was born to Janie and Iverson Anderson of Bryn Mawr, Pa., and was a 56-year resident of Tuskegee Institute.

"Chief" was an inductee of the Alabama Aviation Hall of Fame (1991). The International Order of the Gathering of Eagles (1990), winner of the famous Brewer Trophy (1985), and held other aviation awards. An honorary doctorate of science was conferred by Tuskegee University in 1988.

His first love was teaching new students to fly, and he amassed more than 52,000 flying hours in his lifetime.

He is best remembered as the chief flight instructor and mentor of the famed "Tuskegee Airmen" of World War II. His 40-minute flight with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt during her Tuskegee visit in 1941, was the catalyst that led to the training of the first African-American military pilots, the "Tuskegee Experiment."

He also flew Vice President Henry Wallace from Tuskegee to Atlanta during that period.

As a boy of 6, "Chief" was fascinated with the idea of airplanes and knew he had to fly. At 8, he ran away from home looking for airplanes rumored to be barnstorming in the area, he had to have a ride. As a teenager, no one would give him a ride because of racism.

At 22, he borrowed \$2,500 from friends and relatives, bought a used airplane and taught himself to fly. By 1920, he had learned so well he received a private license and in 1932, an Airline Transport Rating (#7638), the equivalent of the Ph.D. in the act of science of flying an airplane.

In 1932, he would wed his childhood sweetheart, Gertrude Elizabeth Nelson, who died in 1995.

That same year, with a friend and flying partner, Dr. Albert Forsythe, an Atlantic City, NJ surgeon, he became known for long distance flying. East coast-West coast and back to the East coast. They also flew the first overseas flight by Negroes to Montreal, Canada, where Forsythe had studied medicine.

In preparation for a Pan American Goodwill Tour in 1934, they brought a Lambert Moncoupe airplane in St. Louis, Mo., where they met Charles Lindbergh. Lindbergh also bought an aircraft. Separated by one serial

number, it hangs in the Lambert St. Louis airport today. Lindbergh discouraged their plan to fly.

"Chief" and Forsythe continued to Tuskegee, where the aircraft was christened the "Spirit of Booker T. Washington." He and Forsythe made the first land plane flight from Miami to Nassau in 1934.

They island hopped throughout the Caribbean, to the Northeastern tip of South America. They overflew the Venezuelan straits and landed in Trinidad as national heroes. "Chief," at the age of 86, recreated the trip 59 years later, as his birthday present to himself. He was accompanied in his aircraft by Roscoe Draper, lifelong friend and Tuskegee Airmen instructor, and Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Koons.

With his credentials as a Certified Flight Instructor and Airline Transport rated pilot, "Chief" touched thousands of the nation's military and civilian pilots, such as Gen. B.O. Davis Jr.; Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James; Col. Herbert Carter, and other Tuskegee Airmen during the Tuskegee Experiment.

"Chief" gave countless free airplane rides to the youth of the world, and was a founding member of the NAI, Black Wings in Aviation; the Tuskegee Chapter bears his name. For 22 years, youth from 16-19 have received intensive ground and flight training during the last two weeks in July at the NAI Summer Flight Academy, in order to prepare them for pilot ratings.

Many of his students, such as Capt. Raymond Dohard, U.S. Air, and president Mandella's U.S. pilot; Southeast Asian standouts such as Lt. Col. Robert V. Western, (Bob Mig Sweep); Judge John D. Allen, F-4 Flight Commander, Columbus, Ga; Col. James Otis Johnson, USAF, and many others, have continued in the footsteps of "Chief."

He also soloed the late Capt. "Pete" Peterson of the USAF Thunderbirds Flight Demonstration Team.

At 84, Chief turned over the reins of his beloved Moton Field training site airport to Col. Roosevelt J. Lewis Jr., USAF, another aviation protégé, who flew his aircraft to Trinidad with "Chief" in 1993. They proceeded to facilitate 18 young people into military training needs since 1991.

Two of his last students, Capt. Kevin T. Smith and Lt. Greg West, were the first two blacks in the history of the Alabama Air National Guard. With 385 hours in the F-16, Capt. Smith scored "Top Gun" honors for the USAF in March 1996 Red Flag competition. "Chief" was thrilled.

He is survived by sons, Alfred and Charles; Charles' wife, Peggye; his grandchildren, Vincent, Christina and Marina; his great-granddaughter Krystal; his nieces and nephews, in-laws, and his dog, "Stinky."

[From the Tuskegee News, Apr. 1996]

PIONEER AVIATOR "CHIEF" ANDERSON DIES AT AGE 89

C. Alfred "Chief" Anderson, one of America's last aviation pioneers, died Saturday morning, April 13, 1996, at his Tuskegee home after a lengthy bout with cancer. He was 89.

Born to Janie and Iverson Anderson of Bryn Mawr PA, and a 56-year resident of Tuskegee, "Chief" Anderson was an inductee of the Alabama Aviation Hall of Fame (1991), the International Order of the Gathering of Eagles (1990), and winner of the famous Brewer Trophy (1985).

He held many other aviation awards. An Honorary Doctorate of Science was conferred

by Tuskegee University in 1988. His first love always was teaching students to fly. He amassed over 52,000 flying hours.

Universally known as "Chief," he is best remembered as the Chief Flight Instructor and mentor of the famed "Tuskegee Airmen" of WWII.

His 40-minute flight with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt during her Tuskegee visit in 1941 was the catalyst that led to the training of the first African American military pilots, known as the "Tuskegee Experiment."

He also flew Vice President Henry Wallace from Tuskegee to Atlanta during that period. Chief Anderson's life has been a shining example of integrity, self reliance, adventure and contributions to others.

As a young boy of six, Chief Anderson was fascinated with the idea of airplanes and knew that he had to fly. At eight he ran away from home looking for airplanes rumored to be barnstorming in the areas he had to have a ride.

As a teenager, no one would give him a ride because of racism. At the age of 22, he borrowed \$2,500 from friends and relatives, bought a used airplane and taught himself to fly. By 1929, he had learned so well until he received a private license and in 1932 an Airline Transport Rating, an equivalent of the Ph.D. in the art and science of flying an airplane.

More importantly that year (1932), he married his childhood sweetheart, Gertrude Elizabeth Nelson, who preceded him in death in 1995.

Later in 1932, with a friend and flying partner, Dr. Albert Foresythe, an Atlantic City, N.J. surgeon, he became known for long distance flying; East coast-West coast and back to the East coast.

They also flew the first overseas flight by Negroes to Montreal, Canada, where Dr. Foresythe had studied medicine. In preparation for a Pan American Goodwill tour in 1934 they bought a Lambert Monocoupe airplane in St. Louis, Mo., where they met Charles Lindbergh.

HONORING THE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING

HON. PAT ROBERTS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago today, the Nation was gripped by the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, OK. We looked on in shock and horror as rescue workers and members of the community tried valiantly to reach the victims still trapped in the rubble—victims who were young and old, victims who were somebody's child or parent, husband or wife, brother or sister, friend or colleague. The magnitude of the tragedy was incomprehensible, the sense of loss overwhelming. We were left, in the words of the Roman philosopher Virgil, with "a grief too much to be told."

As the hours and days passed, our grief continued to mount. Mixed with the grief was a sense of empathy and compassion so strong that it gave birth to courage and hope and a resolute spirit. We watched the faces of thousands of heroes as they reached out with gestures large and small. We knew as a community and as a nation that we would endure.

Some 168 lives were lost that day, including the lives of 7 employees from the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service [APHIS]. A little over a month after the bombing, we paid tribute to the seven APHIS employees on the floor of this Chamber. Last year in this Chamber I paid tribute to Olen Bloomer, Jim Boles, Peggy Clark, Dick Cummins, Adele Higginbottom, Carole Khalil, and Rheta Long. I spoke of the lives they had led—good, productive, loving lives—and remembered their dedication to their work and their families. Today, we honor their memory and we remember as well the other victims, the survivors, and all the people whose lives were so sadly transformed by the events in Oklahoma.

SALUTE TO THE SIKH NATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Sikh Nation on Vaisakhi Day, the anniversary of the founding of the Sikh Nation. The 297th birthday of the Sikh Nation occurred this past Saturday, April 13. I salute the Sikh Nation on this occasion.

The Sikh religion is a revealed, monotheistic religion which believes in the equality of all people, including gender equality. Its principles are found in the Guru Granth Sahib, the writings of the 10 Gurus, founders of the Sikh religion. Vaisakhi Day marks the anniversary of the consecration of the Sikh Nation by the tenth and final Guru, Guru Gobind Singh. The Sikh Nation has always tried to live in peace with its neighbors. The Sikhs suffered disproportionate casualties in India's struggle for independence, and Punjab, the Sikh homeland, was the last part of the subcontinent to be subdued by the British.

Sikhs ruled Punjab from 1710 to 1716 and again from 1765 to 1849. When India achieved its independence, the Sikh Nation was one of the three nations that were to receive sovereign power. However, the Sikh leaders of the time chose to take their share with India on the promise of autonomy and respect for Sikh rights—an arrangement similar to America's own association with the people of Puerto Rico. Many of us have spoken about Indian violations of the fundamental human rights of the Sikhs and others. The abduction and "disappearance" of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira is one prominent example. Despite the solemn promises of Gandhi and Nehru, these violations have been going on since the Union Jack was taken down for the last time in 1947. As a result, no Sikh to this day has ever signed the Indian constitution. If the people of New York, California, or Illinois had not agreed to the U.S. Constitution, would we consider them part of this country?

When India attacked the Golden Temple, the Vatican or Mecca of the Sikh Nation, in 1984, more than 20,000 people were killed. Another 20,000 were killed in simultaneous attacks on 38 other Sikh temples, or Gurdwaras, throughout Punjab, Khalistan.

The Indian regime also has imposed "Presidential rule"—that is, direct rule from the central government which supersedes the elected state government—on Punjab nine times. It is likely that if Punjab, Khalistan makes any move toward freedom after the elections, Presidential rule will be imposed for a tenth time. This is one more way to deny the Sikh Nation the freedom that is its birthright.

On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared its independence and the sovereign country of Khalistan was born. The Sikh Nation is set unalterably on a course to freedom, although this movement is nonviolent and democratic. Khalistan will secure its freedom the same way that India secured its independence. India cannot keep together an empire which has 18 official languages. Many experts predict that India will unravel within ten years, if not sooner. It is falling apart in front of our eyes, and too many of my colleagues do not even recognize it. The collapse of the Soviet empire shows that you cannot keep an empire of many nations by force permanently.

America is a country founded on the idea of freedom. Let us remember America's mission: in the words of John F. Kennedy, "to secure the survival and success of liberty." We must support freedom around the world because we are the land of the free. The American idea requires us to support freedom for the Sikhs, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland, the peoples of Assam and Manipur, and all the oppressed peoples of the Indian subcontinent. Two bills are pending which address this issue. The first, H.R. 1425, would cut off United States development aid to India until basic human rights are respected. The second, House Concurrent Resolution 32, calls for self-determination in Indian-occupied Khalistan. I call upon my colleagues to support these bills. They will help to end India's brutal occupation of Khalistan and insure that when we congratulate the Sikh Nation on its 300th anniversary three years from now, we can offer those congratulations to the leaders of a free and sovereign Khalistan.

TRIBUTE TO LYNDEN B. MILLER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I am especially pleased today to bring to the attention of my colleagues Mrs. Lynden B. Miller, my close personal friend, whose years of behind-the-scenes service to the public is deserving of a very special tribute. We owe a debt of gratitude to Lynden who, as a designer of public gardens, has made an immeasurable contribution of beauty and grace to the great parks and public spaces of New York City.

Lynden Miller's most recent and notable contribution is on view in Bryant Park, on 6 acres located behind the New York Public Library. The city of New York closed Bryant Park in the late 1980's because it had become a haven for crime. In 1992, after 5 years of renovation, and with gardens newly designed by Lynden, Bryant Park was triumphantly reopened. Since its opening, 10,000 visitors

walk through the garden each day, rejuvenated by Lynden's pallet of spiraeas, hydrangeas, foxgloves, sedums, phlox, hollyhocks and Japanese anemones set in borders 300 feet long by 12 feet deep. Today, due largely to Lynden's vision of the possibilities for public space, Bryant Park has been transformed into an oasis of peace and elegance in the midst of busy midtown Manhattan.

As the director of the Conservatory Garden in Central Park since 1982, Lynden has again defied expectations. This northeastern most area of Central Park was designed in the 1930's as an Italianate estate garden. Fifty years later, at the time Lynden was appointed to take on its renaissance, it has been abandoned. After 14 years of Lynden's direction of garden design, relentless fundraising and staff supervision, the Conservatory Garden of Central Park has become one of the great jewels in the greatest public park in the world. Under Lynden's guidance, the Conservatory Garden has also remained a community institution serving residents of both upper Fifth Avenue and some of the blighted neighborhoods of East Harlem.

Other public spaces which bear Lynden's signature include the garden at the Central Park Zoo, portions of the New York Botanical Gardens, Wagner Park at Battery Park City, spring and summer annuals at Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn, gardens at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, and Herald & Greeley Squares. She is on the Boards of Directors of the United States National Advisory Council for the National Arboretum in Washington, DC, and New York City's Central Park Conservancy and The Parks Council, among others. Lynden also lectures and participates in symposiums in the United States and abroad. She has written several articles and essays on garden design.

Lynden owes her sense of color to her training as an artist. She was a successful studio artist from 1967 until 1982 and has had several gallery shows in London and New York. She was educated at Smith College, the New York Botanical Gardens, Chelsea-Westminster College in London, and the University of Maryland.

I am very proud to pay tribute to Lynden Miller, who for fourteen years has been quietly dedicated to the well-being and beauty of New York City's most frequented public spaces. I ask my colleagues to join with me today in celebration of Lynden for her many wondrous botanical gifts to the millions of residents and visitors of the city of New York.

HAVERHILL GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPS

HON. PETER G. TORKILDSEN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. TORKILDSEN. Mr. Speaker, this morning I spoke on the floor praising the UMASS Minutemen basketball team—the best college basketball team in the country. Now I rise to applaud and celebrate the best women's basketball team in Massachusetts—from Haverhill High School—on their championship win.

These athletes have proven they possess the necessary edge to be champions and rightfully deserve heartfelt congratulations.

On Saturday, March 16, 1996, at the Worcester Centrum in Massachusetts, Haverhill won its third consecutive Division I girls crown with a 74–46 victory over Pittsfield High School. With nine seniors leading the team to victory, UMASS-bound Kelly Van Heisen netted 12 points in the championship game.

Other members of this championship team include Julie Szabo, Jaimie DeSimone, Samantha Good, Sara Jewett, Allison Godfrey, Julie Dirs, Tricia Guertin, Cheryl Leger, Nicole Lacroix, Kelly Van Keisen, Melissa Rowe, Melissa Cerasuolo, Meghan Buckley, Heather Langlois and Caitlin Masy.

Thirteen-year head coach Kevin Woelfel had led his teams to win six State titles in the last 10 years, finished second twice and has a stunning overall record of 275–37, for a winning percentage of 88 percent.

To be a champion athlete requires dedication, perservance, skill and drive. The young women who make up this winning team possess all of these characteristics and combined them to produce a group of unbeatable champions.

I'm very proud to have such an outstanding team from my district. Success in any field demands a great deal of commitment and hard work, and it's obvious from these championship victories that these women have what it takes to win.

These incredibly talented young women have not only proven themselves to be the best this past season, but to possess a record of six championship wins in the past 10 years reflects the dedication of their coach, Mr. Kevin Woelfel. In the equation for success, effective leadership and guidance are as necessary as talent and commitment from the players.

Once again, congratulations to this winning team, and I wish you nothing but continued success as you continue on to college and throughout the rest of your lives. You are excellent role models for those who follow in your footsteps, and you are outstanding representatives of both your school and the State of Massachusetts.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SIKHS ON VAISAAKHI DAY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 297th celebration of Vaisaakhi Day, the birthday of the Sikh nation. On Vaisaakhi Day in 1699, Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth and last Guru of the Sikh religion, formally baptized the Sikhs into nationhood, creating the order of the Khalsa Panth.

The Sikhs are a proud, hard-working, and freedom-loving people. At times they have prospered. At times they have persevered under immense tyranny. They have always conducted themselves according to the axiom uttered by Guru Gobind Singh: "Recognize ye all the human race as one."

Sikhism is a monotheistic, independent religion that should not be confused with Hindu-

ism or Islam. Sikhism dates back to the first of the ten Sikh Gurus, Guru Nanak, born in 1469. He laid the foundation of Sikhism by preaching a simple creed based on three principles: 1.) Pray daily, meditating on God's name; 2.) Work hard and earn an honest living by the sweat of your own brow—live a family life and practice honesty in all dealings, and 3.) Be charitable, sharing the fruits of your labor with others.

Most importantly, the Guru instructed Sikhs to stand up against tyranny wherever it exists. On many occasions, Sikhs have lived up to this high calling, defending Hindus from the aggression of Mogul invaders from Afghanistan. Today Sikhs find themselves in a position of defending themselves from the brutal tyranny of the Indian Government. Over the past ten years, over 100,000 Sikhs have been killed by Indian security forces. Yet Sikhs continue to look to the spirit imbued in them on Vaisaakhi Day in 1699.

Mr. Speaker, the Sikh people remain bloody but unbowed in the face of the campaign of murder, torture and rape being waged by the Indian military. Because of India's bloody rule, the Sikh people are seeking to exercise their right to self determination and declare an independent Sikh homeland. In October 1987, three years after India's bloody assault and massacre at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, every major Sikh political group joined together to issue a declaration of nationhood and independence.

I ask all of my colleagues to support two pieces of legislation: H.R. 1425, "The Human Rights in India Act, which would cut off U.S. aid to India until it stops the human rights abuses; and House Resolutions 32, which would recognize the Sikh people's right to self-determination. America stands for freedom, human rights and democracy, and we should support these ideals.

FOR SURVIVORS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, between 1915 and 1923 the Ottoman Turkish Empire committed a terrible genocide against Armenians. In a systematic and deliberate campaign to eliminate the Armenian people and erase their culture and history of 3,000 years the Turks committed this atrocity. As a result, over one-half million Armenians were massacred. The Armenian genocide is a historical fact, and has been recognized by academicians and historians all over the world. The documentary evidence is irrefutable and beyond question. Unfortunately, the Turkish Government is still persisting in their denial that the genocide took place.

Many survivors of the genocide have made the United States their new home. On April 24, 1996 Armenians all over the world will commemorate the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Commemoration activities will occur in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, and in my district in Fresno, California. I have

the honor of representing thousands of Armenians in California's 19th Congressional District, and I send my sincerest condolences on this solemn occasion to all members of the Armenian community. As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I intend to join my colleagues, Representatives JOHN PORTER and FRANK PALLONE in a special order on April 24, 1996 on the floor of the

House of Representatives to commemorate the genocide victims.

I am an original cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 47 which calls on Congress to officially recognize the Armenian genocide and encourages the Republic of Turkey to do the same. This legislation would call on the Government of Turkey to turn away from its denials of the Armenian genocide, and instead, to openly acknowledge this tragic chap-

ter in its history. By doing so, the Turkish Government can help to raise the level of trust in a strategic, yet highly unstable, region of the world and facilitate the normalization of relations between Turkey and Armenia. I encourage my colleagues to vote for the passage of H. Con. Res. 47.

Remembering this genocide against the Armenians will help ensure that this type of tragedy is never allowed to occur again.